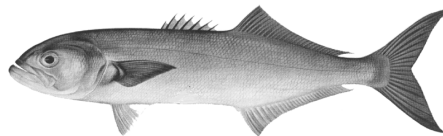
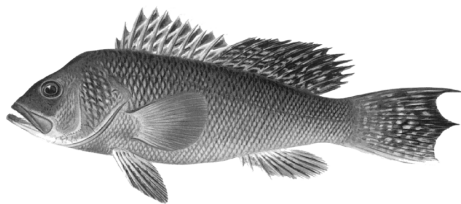
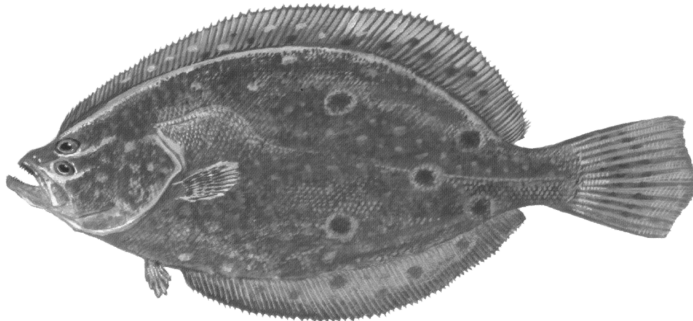
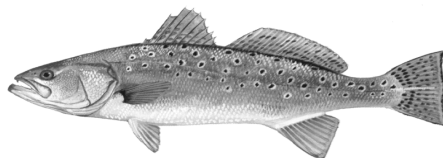
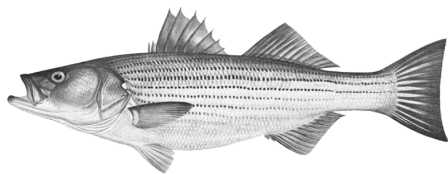


2000 Survey of Northeast Recreational Anglers: Preferences for Fishing and Management Alternatives

Your opinion matters



Sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service

This survey is voluntary. Your name is not asked so the information you give is anonymous. All responses will be kept confidential.

1. I would like to ask you some questions about the types of saltwater fish you primarily target. Please indicate the fish you have targeted over the past year. Place an **X** in the appropriate box for each species.

	Never Target	Rarely Target	Frequently Target	Always Target	Does Not Apply
Striped Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bluefish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Flounder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Sea Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cod	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weakfish					
(Spotted Sea Trout)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Squeteague)					
Tautog (Blackfish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 1a). Do you target any other fish not listed above? If so, please write them in the space provided.

2. During the past two months, how many days have you been fishing in:
- _____ Freshwater
- _____ Saltwater (please do not include days spent shellfishing)
3. During the past two months, how many days have you been saltwater fishing in:
- _____ Beach or bank
- _____ Pier, bridge, or jetty
- _____ A boat owned by you, a friend, or family member
- _____ A charter, party, or head boat

4. Now I would like to ask you some questions about your preference for keeping and releasing the fish you catch. Please place an **X** in the appropriate box **for each species**.

	I keep all I'm legally allowed to keep	I keep most of what I'm legally allowed to keep	I release most of what I am legally allowed to keep	I release all of what I am legally allowed to keep	Does Not Apply
Striped Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bluefish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer Flounder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Sea Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cod	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weakfish (Spotted Sea Trout) (Squeateague)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tautog (Blackfish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. People choose to release some of the fish they **could have legally kept** for many reasons. Below is a list of reasons that may describe why you choose to release the fish you catch. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree by placing an **X** in the appropriate box **for each reason**.

You release some fish you could have legally kept because.....	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Undecided
a) you don't like to eat some types of fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some of the fish are too small to keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) you have caught what you plan to eat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) of your conservation ethic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) you enjoy the sport of catching and releasing fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Do you own a boat that is sometimes used for saltwater recreational fishing (please circle the correct response)?

Yes

No (SKIP TO QUESTION 9)



7. Is your boat moored or trailered (Please circle the correct response)?

Moored

Trailered (SKIP TO QUESTION 9)



8. In what state and county do you moor your boat?

State:_____ County:_____

9. Please indicate the extent to which you support or oppose the following conservation measures by placing an **X** in the appropriate box **for each conservation measure**.

	Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Oppose	Undecided
Limits on the MINIMUM size of fish you can keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limits on the MAXIMUM size of fish you can keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limits on the number of fish you can keep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limits on the times of year when you can keep the fish you catch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limits on the areas you can catch fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping fish within a certain length range, but releasing the fish below or above this range (slot limit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limiting the types of bait/gear that can be used	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placing a harvest moratorium/closure on a species if the population level is considered dangerously low	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. People do not always support recreational fishing regulations for a variety of reasons. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree by placing an **X** in the appropriate box **for each reason**.

	Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Disagree	Undecided
Regulations are too confusing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not sure whether state or federal regulations apply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulations are not needed because populations of fish are not in trouble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial fishing takes too many fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational fishing doesn't really effect fish populations and shouldn't be regulated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catching and voluntarily releasing fish (i.e.. catch-and-release) is one way recreational anglers can conserve stocks without additional regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing is an important source of food for me and I can not afford to throw back fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulations that force me to release fish cause mortality anyway-especially when trying to free deeply hooked fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fisheries managers can often choose among different management options (for example, bag or size limits) to achieve the same biological objectives. Your answers to the next set of questions will inform managers about your preferences for fishery management options.

I would like to ask you some questions about the types of fishing trips you prefer. For each question, I'll describe three trips to you and ask you to tell me which one you would choose.

Definitions

Cost of traveling to a site- Includes gas, wear and tear on your vehicle, and other expenses you might have from traveling to and from a fishing access site (such as tolls, ferry fees, and parking fees). This cost also includes expenses for food, ice, and fishing equipment used on this trip. The cost **does not** include guide or boat fees.

Likely total catch of summer flounder- Anglers never know exactly how many summer flounder they will catch when they take a trip. However, they often have an idea of how many fish they are likely to catch.

Minimum size limit for summer flounder- Summer flounder smaller than a minimum size limit must be released.

Bag limit for summer flounder- The most summer flounder an angler can legally keep per day of fishing.

Likely number of summer flounder of legal size- Anglers also are never sure of the size of summer flounder they will catch. However, they often might be aware of differences in locations that might lead to differences in the sizes of fish caught.

Likely fishing success for all other species- When taking a trip, anglers might also be interested in catching species besides summer flounder. Fishing success refers to the expected number of fish caught for all other species that you might encounter for a typical trip in your area.

For other important factors not mentioned (such as weather and scenic beauty), please assume that they are the same across all trips.

Even if you don't fish for summer flounder, your answers to these questions will help us understand what is important to anglers when choosing saltwater trips.

11. Suppose **last August** that you could have chosen *only* from the recreational opportunities described below. Please review the trip descriptions and answer the two questions at the bottom of the table.

	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
Cost of traveling to the site	\$ 40	\$ 40	Do something else, but not take a saltwater fishing trip.
Likely total catch of summer flounder	8 fish	11 fish	
Minimum size limit for summer flounder	14 inches	15 inches	
Bag limit for summer flounder	12 fish	6 fish	
Likely number of summer flounder of legal size	3 fish	3 fish	
Likely fishing success for all other species	Average	Above Average	
<i>11a) Which trip do you MOST prefer?</i> (Please check <i>only one</i> box.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>11b) Which trips would you SERIOUSLY consider taking?</i> (Please check <i>all</i> that apply.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Suppose **last August** that you could have chosen **only** from the recreational opportunities described below. Please review the trip descriptions and answer the two questions at the bottom of the table.

	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
Cost of traveling to the site	\$ 20	\$ 55	Do something else, but not take a saltwater fishing trip.
Likely total catch of summer flounder	8 fish	14 fish	
Minimum size limit for summer flounder	12 inches	12 inches	
Bag limit for summer flounder	6 fish	8 fish	
Likely number of summer flounder of legal size	6 fish	0 fish	
Likely fishing success for all other species	Below Average	Below Average	
12a) Which trip do you MOST prefer? (Please check only one box.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12b) Which trips would you SERIOUSLY consider taking? (Please check all that apply.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Suppose **last August** that you could have chosen **only** from the recreational opportunities described below. Please review the trip descriptions and answer the two questions at the bottom of the table.

	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
Cost of traveling to the site	\$ 55	\$ 20	Do something else, but not take a saltwater fishing trip.
Likely total catch of summer flounder	11 fish	8 fish	
Minimum size limit for summer flounder	15 inches	16 inches	
Bag limit for summer flounder	4 fish	12 fish	
Likely number of summer flounder of legal size	10 fish	3 fish	
Likely fishing success for all other species	Below Average	Average	
13a) Which trip do you MOST prefer? (Please check only one box.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13b) Which trips would you SERIOUSLY consider taking? (Please check all that apply.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Suppose **last August** that you could have chosen *only* from the recreational opportunities described below. Please review the trip descriptions and answer the two questions at the bottom of the table.

	Trip A	Trip B	Trip C
Cost of traveling to the site	\$ 40	\$ 55	Do something else, but not take a saltwater fishing trip.
Likely total catch of summer flounder	2 fish	14 fish	
Minimum size limit for summer flounder	15 inches	18 inches	
Bag limit for summer flounder	1 fish	6 fish	
Likely number of summer flounder of legal size	1 fish	6 fish	
Likely fishing success for all other species	Above Average	Above Average	
<i>14a) Which trip do you MOST prefer?</i> (Please check <i>only one</i> box.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>14b) Which trips would you SERIOUSLY consider taking?</i> (Please check <i>all</i> that apply.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Different types of anglers may have different preferences for fisheries management. The following basic demographic questions will help fishery managers understand how your opinions relate to those of other anglers. **All responses will be kept confidential.***

15. What is your gender? (Please check one)

☐ Male

☐ Female

16. What is your ethnic background? (Please check one)

☐ White

☐ Black/African American

☐ Hispanic/Spanish

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ American Indian

☐ Other: _____

17. What is the highest level of education you have achieved? (Please check one)

☐ Did not graduate high school

☐ High school graduate or GRE completion

☐ 2 Year degree or trade school

☐ Attended some college

☐ 4 Year degree

☐ Masters degree (for example MA, MS, or MBA)

☐ Professional or Doctoral degree (for example MD, DDS, JD, PhD, or Ed D)

18. What best describes your employment status? (Please check all that apply)

☐ Employed full-time (including self-employment)

☐ Employed part-time (including self-employment)

☐ Full time home-maker

☐ Retired

☐ Student (part-time)

☐ Student (full-time)

☐ Unemployed

☐ Other: _____

19. Was this survey completed by the person to whom it was mailed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

We welcome any additional comments you would like to share with us. Please feel free to write in the space provided below.

Your contribution to this study is greatly appreciated. Please return the completed questionnaire in the attached postage paid envelope as soon as possible.

You may receive a summary of results by writing “copy of results requested” on the back of the return envelope, and printing your name, address, and email address (if applicable) below it. Please do not put this information on the questionnaire itself.